

**Federal Geographic Data Committee
Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2004**

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Marine and Coastal Spatial Data (MCSD) Subcommittee met at NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, on November 10, 2004. An agenda and list of the items that were distributed during the meeting are included at the end of the minutes. Individuals who wish to request copies of these items should contact David Stein at Dave.Stein@noaa.gov.

Opening Remarks/Housekeeping Items

Tony LaVoi (NOAA), acting chair of the subcommittee, called the meeting to order. The last meeting was held on June 30, 2004, in Silver Spring, Maryland. Tony reviewed the agenda and then updated the subcommittee on the current activities of the FGDC, including the formation of the National Geospatial Programs Office in USGS, the NSDI Future Directions Initiative, draft NSDI Framework Standards, and the NSDI annual report.

David Stein reviewed the meeting minutes from June 30, and, to set the stage for the work plan discussion, gave an overview of subcommittee accomplishments since 2001.

The last bit of subcommittee business was chairmanship approval. Tony LaVoi has been acting chair since Anne Miglarese resigned from NOAA in March 2004. Jerry Mills made a motion to approve Tony LaVoi as the official chair of the subcommittee. Meredith Westington seconded the motion. There were no objections from subcommittee members. Tony is now the chairman of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Subcommittee and notice of this change will be forwarded to the FGDC Secretariat.

Agenda Items

1. Review of Draft Subcommittee Work Plan. Tony LaVoi and David Stein reviewed each item in the draft work plan submitted to all committee members prior to the meeting. The information below summarizes key points and changes made to the draft work plan.

Geospatial One Stop: It was decided that the subcommittee would coordinate and continue to populate the oceans and estuaries channel on the GOS portal. It was also decided that it was not the subcommittee's responsibility to use its resources to collect planned data acquisitions from member agencies, but instead that the subcommittee should continue to advocate for compliance with GOS requirements, specifically for data collections in the coastal and marine environment. The subcommittee will use the list server to disseminate information about the "geodata marketplace," but it will be up to the agencies to populate it. There was also discussion that it is a disincentive to require

that a metadata or meta-lite record be written for planned acquisitions. Additionally, the current bounding box requirement is insufficient to capture the location(s) where data collection is planned. This issue will be addressed with FGDC and GOS staff.

NRC and Ocean Commission Recommendations: There was significant discussion about subcommittee response to NRC Recommendation 1:

To achieve national consistency, all parties should define their shorelines in terms of a tidal datum, allowing vertical shifts to be calculated between and among the various shoreline definitions, while at the same time permitting different agencies and users to maintain their existing legal shoreline definitions. In situations where legislation or usage does not preclude it, the committee recommends that internationally recognized shoreline established by NOAA's NGS be adopted. The committee encourages the Marine and Coastal Spatial Data of Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to pursue implementation of this recommendation.

The subcommittee recognized that this language is too narrow. To make this recommendation more widely applicable across agencies involved in shoreline development, "tidal datum" should be changed to "vertical datum." It was also brought to our attention that the work of the National Shoreline Data Content Standard subgroup is addressing the above NRC recommendation in the standard. An update on the progress of V-Datum was given by Maureen Kenny during the meeting, and it was decided that a V-Datum presentation will be given at the Coastal GeoTools Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in March, 2005.

Development of the National Shoreline Data Content Standard: Eric Linzey briefed the group on the status of this standard. There have been three meetings since the last subcommittee meeting on June 30, 2004. Significant progress has been made and a draft standard and UML model should be completed in late winter. It was decided that this work item would be moved under the "NRC and Ocean Commission Recommendations" work item.

Bathymetry, NSDI Framework Theme: David Stein stated that bathymetry is considered an A-16 framework data set for which NOAA has responsibility. A strategic theme of the NSDI Future Directions Initiative is to make framework real. There are many bathymetric data sets in NOAA and it is the desire of the subcommittee to make bathymetry easily accessible to the marine and coastal geographic information system (GIS) community. The main question was how do we address this within the work of the subcommittee? The conclusion was that we need to hold a special meeting devoted to bathymetry in the context of NSDI framework. With all of the other activities in which the subcommittee is currently engaged, a meeting date was not set. However, this topic warrants further discussion and will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

FGDC Marine Boundary Working Group (MBWG): The MBWG is a standing work item of the subcommittee. Since it is a spin-off of the MCSD subcommittee and the cadastral subcommittee, its activities and progress will be reported through the subcommittee. No changes were made to this work item.

2. Approval of the Work Plan. Tony LaVoi discussed that all decisions made during the meeting will be incorporated into a new version of the work plan and circulated back out to the larger subcommittee. The subcommittee will be given a week to review. Any additional comments will be incorporated, and the work plan will be approved by the subcommittee's chair.

3. Discuss collaborative efforts with the Council on Environmental Quality – Interagency Coastal and Ocean Mapping Proposal. John Haines, USGS, briefed the subcommittee on the Interagency Coastal and Ocean Mapping Proposal. This proposal is in response to the United States Commission on Ocean Policy Recommendation 25-7. The proposal seeks to establish a task force on Coastal and Ocean Geospatial Data and Systems and an office under Ocean.US to coordinate interagency coastal and ocean geospatial information programs to ensure that all activities are consistent with FGDC and IOOS data management and communications efforts.

Some concerns were expressed about duplication of efforts, but it was conveyed to the subcommittee that the intent is not to duplicate but to coordinate and leverage the strengths of the FGDC to ensure that broader goals are being met. The proposal is still in a developmental stage and comments are welcome. Tony LaVoi encouraged that all NOAA comments go to Craig McLean since he is the NOAA lead on the proposal.

4. Thematic Updates

NOAA Office of Coast Survey Bathymetry Work: Jim Hawks briefed the subcommittee on a bathymetry project OCS is working on. Jim mentioned that all GEODAS surveys from the NOAA National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) are currently loaded in Oracle 9i. NOAA Office of Coast Survey (OCS) is working to replicate the database for charting purposes. The next data load will be the more recent hydrographic surveys, which are in Microstation design file format. OCS has tried loading the design files directly using FME but are having trouble due to inconsistencies in the way the design files were generated. The next step is to get the original text files and attempt to load those into Oracle.

ENC Updates: Jim Hawks gave an update on ENC Direct. ENC Direct is a Web portal that provides comprehensive access to display, query, and download all available large-scale NOAA ENC data in a variety of GIS/CAD formats for non-navigational purposes using Internet mapping service technology. ENC Direct can be found at http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/ctp/encdirect_new.htm.

David Stein gave an update on an ENC GIS application that has been released by the NOAA Coastal Services Center called the ENC Data Handler for ArcGIS. The extension works in ArcGIS 8.x and 9.x and enables users to convert ENCs from S-57 to geodatabase format and automatically symbolizes the feature classes. The ENC Data Handler can be found at www.csc.noaa.gov/products/enc/.

Marine Boundary Working Group (MBWG): Lee Thormahlen (MMS) and David Stein (NOAA) updated the subcommittee on recent activities of the MBWG. The MBWG has been working on a handbook entitled *Marine Boundary Best Practices: A Handbook on Developing Legal Descriptions and Digital Boundaries for Marine Managed Areas*. A committee draft will be available for review in the January 2005 timeframe. For up-to-date information about the working group, refer to the Web site at www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/.

Geospatial One-Stop (GOS): Kim Owens (NOAA) updated the subcommittee on recent GOS activities. NOAA is managing the oceans and estuaries, atmosphere and climate, and locations and geodetic networks channels on the GOS portal. Kim encouraged anyone interested in posting sites to the channel to contact her.

Shoreline: Stephen Bascom (NGA) gave a presentation on a global shoreline data set that is being developed by the NGA. The NGA Maritime Division has a contract with EarthSat to provide NGA with a global shoreline (except Antarctica). This data is derived from Landsat at approximately MHW. The target scale is ~ 1:50K. The presentation will be made available on the subcommittee's Web site.

5. Action Items

- Send periodic data calls for GOS oceans and estuaries channel and other relevant GOS information. (Owens)
- Coordinate V-Datum presentation at Coastal Geotools Conference in Myrtle Beach. (LaVoi)
- Send subcommittee member list around for updates. (Stein)
- Continue dialog with The National Map representatives to include marine and coastal data. (Stein – state composite shorelines; Hawks – ENC's; Westington – territorial limits)
- Subcommittee members provide input on revised work plan. (All)

Items Distributed

- Agenda
- Factsheet on Subcommittee
- 2005–06 draft work plan
- Meeting minutes from June 30, 2004

Attendees

Name	Agency	E-mail
Tony LaVoi	NOAA Coastal Services Center	Tony.Lavoi@noaa.gov
David Stein	NOAA Coastal Services Center	Dave.Stein@noaa.gov
James Hawks	NOAA Coast Survey	James.Hawks@noaa.gov

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Lee Thormahlen (via phone)	MMS Marine Boundaries Branch	Leland.Thormahlen@mms.gov
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Tara Wallace	NOAA Coast Survey	Tara.Wallace@noaa.gov
Maureen Kenny	NOAA Coast Survey	Maureen.Kenny@noaa.gov

Agenda

FGDC Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Subcommittee Meeting
November 10, 2004
NOAA Headquarters, SSMC2, rm. 2358
Silver Spring, MD

Meeting Outcomes:

- **Approved FY 2005-06 work plan**
- **Action plans for priority work items**

8:45 Coffee and bagels

9:00 Welcome, introductions, and agenda overview

9:15 Highlight current activities and items of interest from the FGDC

9:30 Approve meeting minutes and review action items from the last meeting

9:45 Review draft subcommittee work plan

- Review comments to date
- Discuss additional drivers
- Identify priorities

- Create working groups

10:30 Break

10:45 Review draft subcommittee work plan – continued

11:30 Approve subcommittee work plan

11:45 Lunch (on your own)

1:15 Discuss collaborative efforts with the Council on Environmental Quality
Interagency Coastal and Ocean Mapping proposal

1:45 Thematic/Agency Updates

- Shoreline Standard
- Marine Boundary Working Group
- OCS Bathymetry work
- ENC updates
- Geospatial One-Stop
- Agency updates and items of interest

3:00 Review next steps and action items

3:30 Meeting adjourned

Meeting Minutes Submitted by

David Stein, NOAA Coastal Services Center
FGDC Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Subcommittee Executive Secretary